



Attorney's Docket No. 032880-056

Patent

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Thierry Gandelheid, et al.

Application No.: 09/998,137

Filed: December 3, 2001

For: Method of Separating Compound(s)
from Mixture(s)

Group Art Unit: 1723

Examiner: Ernest G. Therkorn

Confirmation No.: 4571

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed on March 3, 2003, please amend this application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 6-8, 13, 20, 21, 26-28, and 36-38 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please amend claims 1, 5, 16, 17, 29, and 35 and add new claims 39-41 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of separating a compound of interest from a mixture, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a mixture containing a compound of interest, the compound of interest having an expected mass;

(b) subjecting a portion of the mixture to a separation using an analytical HPLC column to produce an eluate stream;

(c) analyzing the eluate stream using a mass spectrometer to determine a retention time of the compound of interest on the analytical HPLC column;

(d) predicting a retention time of the compound of interest from a preparative scale HPLC column using a predetermined static correlation function between retention time on

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